THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The declaration proposal is currently under inter-ministerial consultation. No specific timeframe could be prescribed in this regard at this stage as the declaration has to be by an Act of Parliament.

Introduction of waterways transport

1773. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce waterways for transportation of goods from one city to another city; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There is no such specific proposal. However, three waterways namely Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam, alongwith Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals having been declared at National Waterways are partially operational for transportation of goods.

I.T. Corridor of Bangalore

1774. SHRI KB. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government have sought assistance for the upgradation of 38 roads in I.T. Corridor of Bangalore; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir, Karnataka Government has sought assistance for upgradation of 38 works of economic importance around Bangalore in form of one time assistance amounting to Rs. 516.00crore from Planning Commission.

(b) Above roads are not National Highways and as such State Government is primarily responsible for their development and maintenance.